horizontal system, seem to have developed for this purpose entirely, consists almost wholly of wood cells. Owing probably to the general evenness of climate the annual rings are not easily demonstrated.—CARLETON E. PRESTON, *Harvard University.*

## NON SEXUAL PROPAGATION OF OPUNTIA.

PROFESSOR TOUMEY, in an article in the BOTANICAL GAZETTE (**20**: 356. 1895), speaks in general terms of the use of spines as aids in dissemination of opuntias which are dispersed by the breaking off of the separate joints. A short note may be added as to the function of these spines, especially in such long-spined species as *O. fulgida* Engelm. A joint falling upon the sand very often rebounds from the elasticity of the spines, and by this impetus is carried some distance from the parent plant. The greatest aid, however, is in the placing of the joint. Joints destined for such dissemination are as a rule obovate, the best developed areolae with the longest spines being situated on the distal end, those of the proximal end being scarcely at all armed. The result of this is that the joint upon falling almost invariably lights with its base downward, in the best possible position for striking root. The distal parts are kept off the ground in all cases by the long spines.—CARLETON E. PRESTON, *Harvard University.*

## GAURELLA = GAUROPSIS.

I HAVE to propose the restoration of the name of *Gauropsis* Torrey & Fremont (Rep. 315. 1845), to take the place of *Gaurella* Small (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **23**: 183. 1896). Gauropsis was clearly defined by its authors, though not treated as a genus, and the type and only species was the *Œnothera canescens* Torrey & Fremont, described at the place cited. The *Index Kewensis* gives *Gauropsis* Presl, 1849; I have not seen Presl's work, but in any event it is later than that of Torrey and Fremont. The type species of Gauropsis, *Gaurella guttulata* (Geyer) Small will become *Gauropsis guttulata*, or, I think, much better *Gauropsis canescens*, since the name *canescens* is only preoccupied by a slight variety of *Œnothera biennis*.—T. D. A. COCKERELL, *East Las Vegas, N. M.*